



**DECISION MEMO**  
**TELEPHONE RELOCATION, CAMP FOXTAIL TO CAMP LEE**  
**USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST, SPRING MOUNTAINS**  
**NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

**BACKGROUND/NEED**

CenturyLink provides telephone and internet service to the areas of Mt. Charleston in Kyle and Lee Canyons. There is a need to relocate existing telecommunication equipment from Camp Foxtail organization camp to Camp Lee organization camp to continue to provide service in Lee Canyon. Consolidating the telecommunication equipment at Camp Lee would reduce winter snow plowing and year round diesel delivery to Camp Foxtail. Camp Lee has a year-round caretaker and can provide shared use of power generation at a location that will provide improved maintenance access.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposal is to authorize the relocation of telecommunication network equipment from Camp Foxtail to Camp Lee by replacing 2,100 feet of aerial telephone cable (24 and 22-gauge cable (1.36" and 0.74") over Foxtail Ridge within a 10 foot wide corridor. Aerial cable would be installed and removed by hand with each pole being climbed and looping the cable through pulleys. Cable would not touch the ground and no cable would drag across the area within critical habitat for Mt. Charleston Blue Butterfly habitat during implementation. A cable reel would facilitate installation and removal of the aerial cable and would be parked in existing disturbed areas. Telephone service would continue to be provided to Camp Foxtail.

At Camp Lee, approximately 415 feet of telephone cable would be buried including 2 inch PVC conduit approximately 36 inches deep. The trench would be approximately 12-18 inches wide and installed within the existing dirt road to an existing building where telecommunication equipment would be housed. Road access exists within both organizational camps, there are no new roads needed to access the telephone line. The total project related disturbance is approximately 0.17 acres. See project map 1.

Critical habitat for Mount Charleston blue butterfly a species listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service occurs within the project area. To minimize adverse effects to Mount Charleston blue butterfly and its critical habitat the following protective measures will be implemented:

1) **Work Over Snow:** If there will be a reasonable opportunity to execute the project over 12 inches of snow, we will do so. The project will only be implemented when the ground is frozen, or forest soil conditions are dry.

- 2) **Technicians:** Technicians will be trained in the identification of MCBB larval host and nectar plants to avoid stepping on larval host and nectar plants where possible.
- 3) **Project Timing:** The project will be performed outside of adult flight season, June 15- September 15.
- 4) **Machinery:** All construction equipment and vehicles used for the project will be cleaned and certified free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to entrance onto the HTNF. This restriction will include equipment and vehicles intended for both on- and off-road use, whether they are owned, leased, or borrowed by either contractors or subcontractors. A USFS employee trained in vehicle inspection will inspect all equipment entering project site to ensure each is free of soil and plant debris.
- 5) **Staging Areas:** All machinery will be staged at least 10 meters outside of suitable habitat.
- 6) **Implementation Monitoring:** Qualified botanists, biologist, or ecologist will be on- site during the work to monitor habitat disturbance. Habitat impacted during the project will be delineated and recorded.
- 7) **Post Implementation Monitoring:** A qualified botanist, biologist, or ecologist will monitor the project area and noxious or invasive plants the following spring and summer.
- 8) **Toiyabe NF Best Management Practices** (Humboldt-Toiyabe Supplemental FSM 2080) will be employed during project implementation to prevent and control the introduction and spread of invasive species, including but not limited to: All equipment and personal gear will be cleaned prior to mobilization into the site; Any new infestations of noxious weeds discovered during implementation will be documented and locations marked on a map or GPS. Newly discovered noxious weeds will be treated prior to conducting additional activities within the infested area.

**The following management requirements will also implemented by Century Link:**

1. Schedule a pre-construction meeting prior to construction commencing by calling Forest Service permit administrator 775-352-1240 and provide a schedule of work to coordinate monitoring requirements.
2. Work with Clark County to identify and prevent disruption or damage to existing utilities in the area, including avoiding underground kitchen facilities.
3. All construction equipment will be inspected before entering the National Forest to prevent noxious weeds. Fill material if needed will be certified weed free.
4. Telephone conduit into the power building will be core drilled about 4 inches or less into the concrete foundation and back filled with concrete to prevent any rodents from entering the building.
5. Implement a fire precaution plan to prevent any project related fires (attached).

## **DECISION**

I have decided to approve the proposed action including the management requirements as described above.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). This category of action(s) is applicable because the category is for minor special uses of NFS

lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land, this category fits because the project requires approximately 0.17 acres.

I find that while there are extraordinary circumstances as described below, it does not warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species in the project area – The aerial section of the telephone is located in critical habitat for Mount Charleston blue butterfly, a species protected by the Endangered Species Act. Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was completed and determined that the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Mount Charleston blue butterfly or adversely modify any designated critical habitat as documented in the biological opinion from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated February 5, 2020.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – The project is not within a floodplain or municipal watershed and there are no wetlands in the project area.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – The project occurs within the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. Recreation would not be affected by the telephone relocation as it is within an existing corridor and is being implemented at a time that the Camp Lee Organization camp is not currently taking reservations.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – there are none present.
- Research natural areas – there are none present.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – There are currently no known American Indian religions or cultural sites within the telephone right of way or in Camp Lee Organization Camp. Authorizing telephone line replacement and trenching in an existing road would not affect American Indian religious or cultural sites.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – Camp Lee Organization Camp is on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. There are no adverse effects to archeological or historic properties. The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the finding in a letter dated January 15, 2020.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The proposal was published on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website, schedule of proposed actions on February 6, 2020. The Forest Service met with Clark County and Century Link on January 15, 2020 to discuss the alignment and co-location within the Forest Service building including a site visit on February 19, 2020 where the trenching route was shifted slightly to avoid underground utilities associated with the camp kitchen, see Figure 1 Map.

## FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Land Management Plan. The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan management direction in Chapter IV-Special Uses. The decision is also consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act. This decision is consistent with noxious weed avoidance.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to notice, comment and appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Construction would begin in Winter 2020 and occur over the period of approximately 3-4 weeks.

## CONTACT

For additional information about this decision, contact: Marnie Bonesteel, Special Uses, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks NV 89431, 775-352-1240 or [marnie.bonesteel@usda.gov](mailto:marnie.bonesteel@usda.gov).

  
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WILLIAM A. DUNKELBERGER  
FOREST SUPERVISOR

3/6/20  
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Date

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